

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07688 240839Z

20

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 NSC-05 CIAE-00

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL REACTION TO WITHDRAWAL OF NORTH KOREAN
 UNGA RESOLUTION

REF: SEOUL 7613

1. EDITORIALS IN ROK PRESS HAVE THUS FAR EXPRESSED RELIEF THAT UN WILL NOT CONSIDER KOREAN QUESTION THIS YEAR. MOST EDITORIALS ASSUME NORTH KOREANS WITHDREW RESOLUTION BECAUSE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION WAS UNFAVORABLE. ALL EMPHASIZE NEED FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA, EITHER USING KISSINGER-PROPOSED 4-POWER FORMAT OR DIRECT BI-LATERAL TALKS.

2. ROKG OFFICIALS WE HAVE SPOKEN TO HAVE BEEN EMPHASIZPHG THE LINE THAT NORTH KOREA'S ACTION IS MERELY A TACTICAL MOVE AND DOES NOT REFLECT ANY FUNDAMENTAL OR LASTING CHANGE IN THE NORTH'S FOREIGN POLICY APPROACH. ROKG PAPERS SEPTEMBER 23 AND 24 FRONTPAGED REMARKS BY FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEW YORK WHICH ALSO STRESSED THIS APPRAOCH. MOST ROK NEWSPAPERS ALSO MENTIONED THIS POINT, NOTING THAT NORTH KOREA IS STILL PRESSING FOR U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND UNC DISSOLUTION.

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3. ONLY THE SINA ILBO SAW THE WITHDRAWAL AS A GREAT

VICTORY FOR ROK DIPLOMACY. TONGA ILBO WAS UNIQUELY
CRITICAL OF THE ROKG ACCEPTANCE OF NORTH KOREA'S
WITHDRAWAL OF THE KOREA QUESTION ACCORDING TO UN, CALLING
IT A THREE TO ONE VICTORY FOR NORTH KOREA. IN TONGA'S
VIEW ONLY ADVANTAGE ROK DERIVED WAS AVOIDING WASTEFUL
SHOWDOWN AT UN, WHILE NORTH KOREA (A) AVOIDED DISCUSSION OF
PANMUNJOM INCIDENT, (B) OPENED PEACE TREATY APPROACH
TO U.S., AND (C) AVOIDED UNGA DEFEAT.
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